

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are canceled.

Claim 19 is new.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 10-19 will be active.

Support for each new and amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The objection of Claims 15-16 is obviated by claim amendment.

The indefiniteness and utility rejections of Claims 10-18 are obviated by claim amendment.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 10-14 as being anticipated by Arkens is respectfully traversed, because Arkens does not describe or suggest all of the features of, for example, present Claim 10. Two features of present Claim 10 are that the mixture comprises a polymerization initiator and a multifunctional-macromonomer that has at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond. In contrast to present Claim 10, Arkens, at column 5, lines 6-10, describes that “the addition polymer (i.e., the polyacid) is prepared by thermal decomposition of an initiator ...to generate free radicals to effect the polymerization.” Thus, the mixture of Arkens cannot contain an initiator (the initiator has been spent to polymerize the polyacid), and the polyacid, unlike the multifunctional-macromonomer of present Claim 10, cannot contain at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond (because any double bonds present before polymerization were polymerized to form the polyacid). Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is requested.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 10-14 and 17-18 as being unpatentable over Baumgart is respectfully traversed. As described above, two features of the mixture of

present Claim 10 are “a polymerization initiator and a multifunctional-macromonomer that has at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond.” Baumgart does not describe or suggest either of these features. Baumgart’s coating composition does not comprise, describe, or suggest a polymerization initiator (see, for example, the Abstract of Baumgart, that does not contain a polymerization initiator). Further, Baumgart does not describe or suggest “a multifunctional-macromonomer that has at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond.” The polysiloxane macromonomer of Baumgart has already been copolymerized (see the Abstract of Baumgart) and, as such, cannot therefore contain at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is requested.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 10-14 and 17-18, as being anticipated by Rockrath, is respectfully traversed. As previously described, a feature of the mixture of present Claim 10 is “a polymerization initiator.” Rockrath does not describe or suggest the presence of a polymerization initiator (see the Abstract of Rockrath). Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 10-16 as being unpatentable over Reich is respectfully traversed. As previously described, a feature of the mixture of present Claim 10 is “a polymerization initiator.” Reich does not describe or suggest the presence of a polymerization initiator, because the acrylate of Reich is “radiation curable” (see Reich, column 1, lines 5-6 and 52-24). Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 10-14 and 17-18 as being unpatentable over Engelke is respectfully traversed. Engelke does not describe or suggest the presence, in the coating agents of Engelke, of a polymerization initiator (see, for example, Column 2, line 53, through Column 3, line 11, or Engelke). Also, Engelke does not describe or

suggest using the mixture of Claim 10 as a binder (Applicants note that the composition of Engelke is “coating agent”). Finally, there is no macromonomer present, as a macromonomer, in Engelke because the macromonomer of Engelke has already been polymerized into an acrylate copolymer (see column 4, lines 23-26). Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 15-16 as being unpatentable over the combination of Arkens and Rockrath is respectfully traversed. As previously described, neither Arkens nor Rockrath describe or suggest all of the features of, for example, present Claim 10. For example, a feature of the mixture in present Claim 10 is the presence of a polymerization initiator. Neither Arkens nor Rockrath describe or suggest the presence of a polymerization initiator. Accordingly the deficiency of Arkens is not cured by the disclosure of Rockrath. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 10 and 15 as being unpatentable over Beck is respectfully traversed, because Beck does not describe or suggest a method for forming an article by polymerizing a mixture to bind substrates and form an article (as described in, for example, present Claim 1). Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claim 16 as being unpatentable over Beck in view of Rockrath is respectfully traversed, because the disclosures of Beck and Rockrath, when combined, do not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claim 16. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

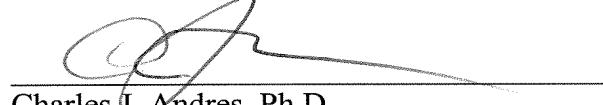
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